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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: OZAWA WINS DPJ PRESIDENCY

REF: A. TOKYO 1839

[1](#)B. TOKYO 1824
[1](#)C. TOKYO 1734

Ichiro Ozawa was elected interim president of the Democratic Party of Japan on April 7, beating Naoto Kan by a 119-72 vote. The margin of victory was larger than had been expected by Japanese pundits, reflecting more support for Ozawa than he had in the past from the party's mainstream. As reported earlier, Ozawa is a venerable Japanese politician whose pro-U.S. stance has long been known to the Embassy (his pre-vote speech affirmed his view that the U.S.-Japan security treaty is the pillar of Japanese security policy, while he advocated closer ties with Asian neighbors). He is expected to bring experience back to the party's leadership, something that was sorely lacking under Seiji Maehara. The party's weakened state, however, suggests that his influence on issues affecting U.S. interests will be limited. Ozawa will serve until September, when the regular party presidential election is scheduled to take place. Ozawa is expected to name his shadow cabinet on Monday, April [1](#)10.
SCHIEFFER